

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims replaces all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) An epilator apparatus for the removal of hairs comprising:
 - a tape configured to adhere to hairs before being fed to a plucking zone where the adhered hairs are plucked from skin;
 - a take-up reel configured to receive the tape downstream of the plucking zone;
 - a drive motor configured to drive the take-up reel; and
 - a switch in electrical communication with the drive motor and responsive to the application of the epilator apparatus against skin, such that ~~application~~ pressure of the epilator apparatus against the skin activates the switch to activate the drive motor, thereby to drive the take-up reel.
2. (Previously Presented) The epilator apparatus according to claim 1, further comprising a pressure roller for applying the tape against the skin.
3. (Previously Presented) The epilator apparatus according to claim 2, wherein the tape is oriented relative to the pressure roller such that the adhesive side of the tape is applied against the skin.
4. (Previously Presented) The epilator apparatus according to claim 2, further comprising a deflector positioned in the plucking zone such that the deflector guides the tape away from the skin.
5. (Previously Presented) The epilator apparatus according to claim 4, wherein the tape is fed from the pressure roller to the deflector.

6. (Previously Presented) The epilator apparatus according to claim 4, wherein the deflector includes two juxtaposed deflector elements arranged such that the tape is passed between the two deflector elements.

7. (Previously Presented) The epilator apparatus according to claim 6, wherein the two deflector elements are urged against each other.

8. (Previously Presented) The epilator apparatus according to claim 6, wherein the two deflector elements are rotatably suspended.

9. (Previously Presented) The epilator apparatus according to claim 1, further comprising a first supply reel from which the tape is unwound upstream of the plucking zone.

10. (Canceled)

11. (Canceled)

12. (Previously Presented) The epilator apparatus according to claim 1, further comprising an additional tape that converges in the plucking zone with the tape configured to adhere to hairs.

13. (Previously Presented) The epilator apparatus according to claim 12, wherein at least one of the tape configured to adhere to hairs and the additional tape is an adhesive tape.

14. (Canceled)

15. (Previously Presented) The epilator apparatus according to claim 1 further comprising a hair alignment device disposed in front of the tape, such that the hair alignment device aligns hairs in the direction of movement prior to contact with the tape configured to adhere to hairs.

16. (Currently Amended) A method of removing hair by means of an epilator apparatus, the method comprising:

placing a tape in contact with skin by application of the epilator apparatus to skin;

adhering hairs to the placed tape;
activating a drive motor, which drives a take-up reel, ~~upon the~~ in response to application of the epilator apparatus ~~to~~ against the skin;
feeding the placed tape into a plucking zone of the epilator apparatus;
plucking the adhered hairs from the skin in the plucking zone; and
receiving the tape and plucked hairs on the take-up reel downstream of the plucking zone.

17. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 16, further comprising:
guiding the tape away from the skin in the plucking zone; and lifting the hairs relative to the skin.

18. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 17, further comprising:
clamping the tape and the lifted hairs together between two deflector elements; and
extracting the lifted hairs from the skin.

19. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 18, further comprising:
rotating the two deflector elements in opposite directions in response to the motion of the tape.

20. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 18, further comprising
fixing the position of the surrounding skin by the deflector elements, while the hairs are plucked from the fixed skin in the plucking zone.

21. (Canceled)

22. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 16, further comprising feeding the tape in a manner that causes a forward movement of the epilator apparatus relative to the skin.

23. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 16 further comprising driving the tape by manually advancing the epilator apparatus relative to the skin.